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Draft report

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Addendum

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 16 and 17 March, the Commission considered agenda item 5, entitled "Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016".

2. For its consideration of item 5, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2016/2-E/CN.15/2016/2);

(b) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug abuse (E/CN.7/2016/4);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (E/CN.7/2016/5);

(d) Report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation

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towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2016/6);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/CN.7/2016/7);

(f) Report of the Executive Director on responding to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases among drug users (E/CN.7/2016/8);

(g) Report of the Secretariat on strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative (E/CN.7/2016/11);

(h) Note verbale dated 14 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2016/13);

(i) Report of the Executive Director on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, from the anti-money-laundering perspective (E/CN.7/2016/14).

3. Introductory statements and presentations on agenda item 5 were made by the Director of the Division for Operations, the Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, the Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch and a representative of the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

4. A statement was made by the representative of the Netherlands (on behalf of the States members of the European Union, as well as Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine).

5. Statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, China, Brazil, the United States of America, Mexico, Nigeria, Kenya, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Norway, France, Thailand, India and Japan.

6. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Republic of Tanzania, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Algeria, Morocco and Iraq.

7. The observer for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals also made a statement.

A. Deliberations

8. It was noted that the world drug problem continued to pose serious risks to health and safety of citizens and families and to the stability and sustainable development of societies. The need for continuing commitment to the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments was stressed. The need for a balanced and multidisciplinary approach to supply and demand reduction policies was emphasized, as was the need to strengthen and support the efforts of other countries. The work of UNODC and the

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in relation to the implementation of the conventions and of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action was highlighted.

1. Demand reduction and related measures

9. The need for a balanced and comprehensive approach to demand reduction based on the principles of public health and human rights was emphasized. It was noted that, in order to be effective, demand reduction policies should, within a comprehensive health approach, cover a range of equally important and mutually reinforcing evidence-based measures such as prevention, treatment, early detection and intervention, rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery. Reference was made to the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention* prepared by UNODC, and the international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders prepared by UNODC and the World Health Organization (WHO) and made available to the Commission (see E/CN.7/2016/CRP.4). The need for awareness-raising and drug use prevention education measures, including in families and schools, and the importance of reducing stigmatization and discrimination were highlighted. Communities were called on to increase the coverage of rehabilitation and employment services.

10. Existing challenges, particularly with regard to increasing the coverage of demand reduction interventions, and the need to train service providers were acknowledged.

11. It was noted that the successful implementation of demand reduction programmes required close coordination and coherence between the criminal justice, health, social and other sectors, including in the delivery of interventions for drug prevention and treatment, and for HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs.

12. The importance of taking into account the gender perspective in the context of the prevention of drug use, the treatment of drug use disorders and in efforts to effectively reduce HIV and hepatitis C transmission among people who use drugs, including in prison settings, was stressed.

13. The special needs of children, adolescents, young people and women, as well as the importance of involving women in drug policy design and implementation were highlighted. Some speakers also made reference to the need to involve civil society in the formulation and implementation of drug policies at all levels.

14. A number of speakers expressed the view that effective and comprehensive demand reduction policies should also include risk and harm reduction measures. One speaker noted that, while his country supported treatment measures, it was opposed to the uniform promotion of harm reduction policies. The speaker stated that each Government should take into account the social and cultural aspects of drug use in its country.

15. The need to improve evidence gathering and research was noted. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of capacity to collect objective information on emerging trends and to monitor and evaluate the situation and the responses given to it.

16. Reference was made to the need for synergy between drug prevention and violence prevention policies.

2. Supply reduction and related measures

17. Joint operations by different jurisdictions and cross-border cooperation were reported as being effective in combating drug trafficking, as was the exchange of information on illicit trafficking and related illicit financial transactions. States were called upon to strengthen mutual legal assistance capabilities, establish central authorities and maintain effective points of contact. It was noted that, to be more effective, supply reduction policies should be based on an improved evaluation and analysis of drug markets and drug-related crimes, and on the effectiveness of drug-related law enforcement responses.

18. Cannabis trafficking and the continuing proliferation and manufacture of new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, were highlighted. Also highlighted was the ongoing importance of maintaining effective border controls and ensuring regional and international cooperation to combat the trafficking in and diversion of precursor and pre-precursor chemicals. The need to review legislation in order to improve efforts to combat drug trafficking and meet emerging challenges, such as the evolution of synthetic drug manufacturing and the misuse of the Internet for the purpose of drug trafficking, were noted.

19. Some speakers reaffirmed their strong opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences. Other speakers noted that a strong law enforcement approach against transnational organized criminal groups and individuals involved in drug trafficking was necessary.

20. Reference was made to the need to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, trafficking and abuse.

21. Alternative development was recognized as a critical component in reducing illicit drug crop cultivation, enhancing human development, improving viable economic livelihoods and promoting sustainability. Representatives of States that did not yet implement alternative development programmes expressed their strong interest in implementing alternative development programmes, including in order to address illicit cultivation of cannabis, taking into consideration best practices and lessons learned and calling for cooperation and international support. Several speakers welcomed the growing number of countries engaging in alternative development and reaffirmed their commitment to sharing experiences and lessons learned with other countries. Support was expressed for giving market access to products stemming from alternative development and, where appropriate, preventive alternative development. Reference was made to the need to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and to the outcome of the Second International Conference on Alternative Development. The important role of alternative development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was highlighted.

3. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

22. The issue of illicit financial flows derived from drug trafficking and the need to combat money-laundering were highlighted. In that regard the need for continuous intelligence work on the strongest links between illicit financial flows

and the drug markets by, inter alia, monitoring and identification of such flows was noted. Reference was made to the importance of the coordination efforts among relevant institutions at the national level.

23. It was also noted that a balanced approach should be taken to combating drug trafficking by focusing on improving the legal, institutional, regulatory and operational frameworks on anti-money-laundering in accordance with international conventions and national legislation, including in order to counter the financing of terrorism and other crimes. The role of inter-agency and international cooperation in various forms, including information-sharing between financial intelligence units and law enforcement agencies, was highlighted as an essential element in detecting, investigating and disrupting the ways in which drug traffickers financed their activities, including where there are links with the financing of terrorism.